'Pressure' Claim In Carswell Case Denied by Negro

WASHINGTON, March 30 (AP).—Sen. Alan Cranston (D., Calif.) accused the Nixon Administration Monday of "a deliberate effort to mislead" the Senate by inducing a Negro government official to write a letter supporting G. Harrold Carswell's Supreme Court nomination.

"That is not true," said the Negro official, Charles F. Wilson. "There has been no pressure, neither threats nor promises."

Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst also denied the charge, describing it as "absolutely false and without basis in fact."

UPI Telephoto

SEN. ALAN CRANSTON

. . . *'Effort to mislead'*

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CHARLES F. WILSON

Says It Isn't So

LETTER TO COMMITTEE

Wilson is deputy chief conciliator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. On Feb. 5 he wrote a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee saying that as a black lawyer who frequently appeared in Judge Carswell's U. S. District Court in Tallahassee, Fla., "There was not a single instance in which he was ever rude or discourteous to me, and I received fair and courteous treatment from him on all such occasions."

The letter has been cited by Carswell supporters seeking to refute charges that the jurist was rude to civil rights lawyers.

Cranston told a news conference:

"I charge that out of nearly a dozen civil rights attorneys who had appeared before Judge Carswell, the administration sought out the one attorney who was vulnerable to pressure — a government employe, beholden to Judge Carswell, who could be dismissed at executive discretion."

'EFFORT TO MISLEAD'

The senator said the administration "used Mr. Wilson in a deliberate effort to mislead the committee, the Senate and the American people."

Cranston said Wilson was vulnerable because he was not protected by Civil Service and also because he was in line for a promotion.

Kleindienst denied that Wilson is not protected by Civil Service and said Cranston's charge was "typical of the misleading, unfair and deliberately misinformed statements" made by Carswell opponents.

Kleindienst and Assistant Attorney General William H. Rehnquist said Wilson had volunteered his sentiment that Carswell had treated him fairly in school desegregation cases.

Rehnquist, appearing at a news conference with Kleindienst, acknowledged he had drafted the letter for Wilson, but he said Wilson had first called him with the information, apparently after talking to a mutual acquaintance.

Wilson indicated in an interview that, if anything, he had been under more pressure from those opposing Carswell's nomination than from within the administration.

"Obviously, most of the people associated with me most of my life are very unhappy . . . but what I said in my letter are my views."

WILLING TO TESTIFY

Wilson, in a telephone interview, said he would be willing to appear personally before the Judiciary Committee to testify on the nomination.

He said he had not agreed to do so before because "I didn't think my views were that important."

Wilson said he made certain Rehnquist understood the letter would deal only "with my views . . . only how I had been treated" in Carswell's court.

Asked what his position on the Carswell nomination is, Wilson said:

"As far as my own views are concerned, I would prefer a man more liberal, with a better civil-libertarian record. But that is not my judgment to make."

Amidst the new flurry over the nomination, Sen. Milton R. Young (R., N. D.) announced he would vote against sending Carswell's name back to the judiciary committee April 6 and for him two days later if the first move failed.